IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating system management in a data processing system, comprising:

tracking status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system, wherein said tracking is facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system;

tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component and wherein said tracking is facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system; and

configuring the platform-side operating system dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components, wherein said configuring includes determining if the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality and allowing said functionality to be provided by the redundant system component in response to determining that the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality, wherein said configuring is facilitated at least partially by platform firmware of data processing system.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said tracking includes:

probing a device driver associated with the system component; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

>enabling access of at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components by said platform firmware for enabling said configuring to be facilitated, wherein said enabling access is facilitated by the service processor.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein:

>said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

>said enabling access includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components at boot-time by the service processor for reception by said boot-time firmware.

5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein:

>said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

>said enabling access includes maintaining at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components in a persistent data structure that is accessible by said run-time firmware thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said tracking includes:

>querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action <u>involving the primary system component</u> in response to a determination that the <u>primary</u> system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the ~~system component is a~~ redundant system component ~~that~~ is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the <u>redundant</u> system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action <u>involving the redundant system component</u> in response to a determination that the <u>redundant</u> system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

10. (currently amended) A method for facilitating system management in a data processing system, comprising:

tracking status information of a <u>primary</u> system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

<u>tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary</u>

system component and wherein the redundant system component is
configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system
component; and

enabling access of at least a portion of said status information of at least
one of said system components by platform firmware of the data
processing system for enabling the platform-side operating system to
be configured dependent at least partially upon said status information
of at least one of said system components;

wherein said tracking and said enabling access are facilitated by a service
processor of the data processing system.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said tracking of each one of
said system components includes:

probing a device driver associated with a respective one of saidthe system
components; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes transmitting at least a portion of said status
information at boot-time by the service processor for reception by said
boot-time firmware.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting
over a network connection.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes maintaining at least a portion of said status
information of at least one of said system components in a persistent

data structure that is accessible by said run-time firmware thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the system component is a redundant system component that is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

17. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

18. (currently amended) A method for facilitating system management in a data processing system, comprising:

accessing status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

accessing status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with accessing said status information of the primary system component, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component; and

configuring the platform-side operating system dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components;

wherein said accessing and at least a portion of said configuring are facilitated by platform firmware of data processing system.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said accessing is facilitated in response to said status information of at least one of said system components being transmitted by a service processor of the data processing system for reception by said platform firmware.

20. (original) The method of claim 18 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said accessing includes receiving at least a portion of said status information at boot-time.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein said accessing includes receiving at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> via a network connection.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 18 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said accessing includes accessing at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> in a persistent data structure maintained at least partially by the service processor and accessible by said run-time firmware.

23. (original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

receiving user-specified configuration information transmitted by the service processor for reception by the platform firmware, wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein:

said configuring includes implementing a specified corrective action for <u>the</u>[[a]] ~~particular~~ redundant system component in response to said status information <u>of the redundant system component</u> indicating that the ~~particular~~ redundant system component is unavailable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the specified corrective action includes at least one of issuing notification of the unavailability of the ~~particular~~ redundant system component and issuing notification to repair or replace [[that]]<u>the</u> <u>redundant system</u> component for maintaining fail-over capability.

26. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions processable by at least one of a service processor in a data processing system and platform firmware of a platform-side operating system in the data processing system; and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware;

wherein said instructions being adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

tracking status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system, wherein said tracking is facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system;

tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component and wherein said tracking is facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system; and

configuring the platform-side operating system dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components, wherein said configuring includes determining if the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality and allowing said functionality to be provided by the redundant system component in response to determining that the primary system component is incapable of providing said functionality, wherein said configuring is facilitated at least partially by platform firmware of data processing system.

27. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said tracking includes:

probing a device driver associated with the system component; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

28. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

enabling access of at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> by said platform firmware for enabling said configuring to be facilitated, wherein said enabling access is facilitated by the service processor.

29. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> at boot-time by the service processor for reception by said boot-time firmware.

30. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 29 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

31. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes maintaining at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> in a persistent data structure that is accessible by said run-time firmware thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u>.

32. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

33. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the ~~system component is a~~ redundant system component ~~that~~ is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

34. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 26 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

35. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions processable by at least one of a service processor in a data processing system and platform firmware of a platform-side operating system in the data processing system; and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware;

wherein said instructions being adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

tracking status information of a <u>primary</u> system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

<u>tracking status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with tracking said status information of the primary system component and wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component;</u> and

enabling access of at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> by platform firmware of the data processing system for enabling the platform-side operating system to be configured dependent at least partially upon said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u>;

wherein said tracking and said enabling access are facilitated by a service processor of the data processing system.

36. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking <u>of each one of said system components</u> includes:

probing a device driver associated with <u>a respective one of said</u>the system component<u>s</u>; and

receiving said status information from the device driver.

37. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes transmitting at least a portion of said status information at boot-time by the service processor for reception by said boot-time firmware.

38. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 37 wherein said transmitting includes transmitting over a network connection.

39. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said enabling access includes maintaining at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components in a persistent data structure that is accessible by said run-time firmware thereby enabling said run-time firmware to access at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components.

40. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking includes:

querying a device driver associated with the primary system component after an adverse operating system condition for determining if the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system action and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the primary system component in response to a determination that the primary system component contributed to the adverse operating system condition.

41. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said tracking includes:

determining that the ~~system component is a~~ redundant system component ~~that~~ is idle during a present operating system instantiation;

monitoring status of the redundant system component during the present operating system instantiation; and

implementing a specified corrective action involving the redundant system component in response to a determination that the redundant system component is at least temporarily unable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

42. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 35 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

receiving user-specified configuration information via a service processor based user interface; and

transmitting at least a portion of said user-specified configuration information by the service processor for reception by said platform firmware;

wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

43. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, comprising:

instructions processable by at least one of a service processor in a data processing system and platform firmware of a platform-side operating system in the data processing system; and

an apparatus from which said instructions are accessible by at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware;

wherein said instructions being adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

accessing status information of a primary system component of a platform-side operating system in a data processing system;

accessing status information of a redundant system component of the platform-side operating system in the data processing system in combination with accessing said status information of the primary system component, wherein the redundant system component is configured for providing functionality provided by the primary system component; and

configuring the platform-side operating system dependent at least partially upon said status information of at least one of said system components;

wherein said accessing and at least a portion of said configuring are facilitated by platform firmware of data processing system.

44. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein said accessing is facilitated in response to said status information of at least one of said system components being transmitted by a service processor of the data processing system for reception by said platform firmware.

45. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein:

said platform firmware includes boot-time firmware; and

said accessing includes receiving at least a portion of said status information at boot-time.

46. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 45 wherein said accessing includes receiving at least a portion of said status information of at least one of said system components via a network connection.

47. (currently amended) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein:

said platform firmware includes run-time firmware; and

said accessing includes accessing at least a portion of said status information <u>of at least one of said system components</u> in a persistent data structure maintained at least partially by the service processor and accessible by said run-time firmware.

48. (original) The computer readable medium of claim 43 wherein said instructions are further adapted for enabling at least one of the service processor and said platform firmware to facilitate:

receiving user-specified configuration information transmitted by the service processor for reception by the platform firmware, wherein said configuring is further dependent at least partially upon said user-specified configuration information.

49. (currently amended) The method of claim 43, wherein:

said configuring includes implementing a specified corrective action for <u>the</u>[[a]] ~~particular~~ redundant system component in response to said status information <u>of the redundant system component</u> indicating that the ~~particular~~ redundant system component is unavailable to provide intended redundancy functionality.

50. (currently amended) The method of claim 49 wherein the specified corrective action includes at least one of issuing notification of the unavailability of the ~~particular~~ redundant system component and issuing notification to repair or replace [[that]]<u>the</u> <u>redundant system</u> component for maintaining fail-over capability.